

ABSTRACTS JUNE 1992

(Beller M: Hepatitis A outbreak in Anchorage, Alaska, traced to ice slush beverages. West J Med 1992 Jun; 156:624-627)

The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services investigated a community outbreak of hepatitis A in Anchorage. A total of 57 persons who had hepatitis A between June and September 1988 were studied. Patients ranged from 1 to 54 years of age. A market was implicated as the source of the outbreak. An employee who prepared beverage mixtures in a bathroom was a contact of a person who had had hepatitis A 2 months before the outbreak; the employee was reported to have been jaundiced 3 to 4 weeks before the peak of the outbreak. The administration of immune globulin had an efficacy of 100% (95% confidence limits 69, 100%) in preventing hepatitis A among household contacts of primary cases. Similar beverages are sold by convenience markets and many other businesses nationwide. It is important to ensure that safe food-handling practices are followed by such establishments.

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PUBLIC HEALTH**

**HEPATITIS A ANTIBODY
COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

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